GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1057
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2001
CONVERTING PDS INTO STATUTORY ENTITY
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Governmenthave decided to convert PDS into a statutory entity coveredby a Central Order issued under Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory for State to run PDS for the poor;

(d) whether the Union Government have decided to empower itself with legal power to prosecute those responsible for any flow in the operation of the Public distribution system;

(e) if so, the number of cases registered against those held responsible for non-compliance of the order, State-wise; and

(f) the action taken against each of them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): In order to streamlining the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS)and make it more accountable and effective. Government of India has issued the Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act. 1955.

This order contains provisions in regard to the following matters:-

(i) Identification of families living below the poverty line;

(ii) Ration cards;

(iii) Scale and Issue prices;

(iv) Distribution of foodgrains;

(v) Licensing;

(vi) Monitoring; and

(vii) Penalties for violation.

(c): PDS is already being implemented in all the States/Uts.

(d): Under clause 13 of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001, Government ofIndia is empowered go give such directions as it may deem necessary to State Government forexecution of all or any of the provisions of this Order and the State Government shall complywith such directions. The provisions of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 can be used by the State Governments/UT Administrations to remedy the Public Distribution System and make it transparent and accountable.

(e)&(f): Details of no. of cases registered for non compliance of the order and action taken by State Government is not maintained by the Government of India.